

Algonquin College launches Ontario's first Kitchen and Bath Design Program

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, November 25, 2009 – With help from local business and industry leaders, Algonquin College launched Ontario's first Kitchen and Bath Design Graduate Certificate program today. Set to begin in January 2010, this program is tailored to industry professionals, and recent design graduates, looking to specialize in residential design of kitchens and bathrooms.

"We are excited to be the first in the province to offer this specialized training," says Sandra Gibbons, Developer, Coordinator and Professor of the Kitchen and Bath Design program at Algonquin College. "This program will do two key things for the industry; first, it will address the labour gap for kitchen and bath specialists; second, it will allow those currently in the field to achieve professional designation right here in Ontario."

The National Kitchen and Bath Association, at the National and Provincial levels, fully support this program and will do what is required to ensure its' success. "We are overjoyed to finally have a program like this in Ontario", says Art Warren, CMKBD, VP-Academic Relations for the NKBA Ontario region. "We will be looking to Algonquin to provide a source of select graduates, who can 'hit the ground running' for future requirements by employers in Kitchen and Bath design field, not only in Ontario, but across Canada."

The Kitchen and Bath Design program will provide students with an understanding of industry codes, guidelines and professional standards for kitchen and bath design. Upon graduation, students will have the skills to plan residential kitchens and bathrooms considering environmental, electrical, and mechanical considerations for appliances and fixtures based on latest trends and a detailed understanding of the infrastructure associated with designing for kitchen and bathroom space.

"This program will develop well-rounded industry professionals who can approach kitchen and bath designs from all levels of the industry," adds Gibbons "Students will learn directly from industry professionals through interdisciplinary learning that will allow graduates to assess the needs of clients based on current trends and the infrastructure of the design space."

As part of Algonquin's emphasis to combine theoretical learning with practical experience, students enrolled in the program will also complete 160 hours of supervised on-the-job experience where they will put into practice the knowledge and skills obtained in the classroom. This graduate certificate is a one year certification that is offered evenings and weekends over the course of two 15-week semesters.

The National Kitchen & Bath Association, with Headquarters in New Jersey, offers Accreditation and Certification to the Kitchen and Bath Industry worldwide. One segment of this is the coveted "Endorsed College Program" which Algonquin College has embarked on and will soon receive.

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For program information:

http://www.algonquincollege.com/MediaAndDesign/programs/kitchen_bath/KitchenandBath.htm

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